

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 04356 161645Z

ACTION ARA-14

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 SAB-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - COMMUNIQUE ON OASGA

SUMMARY: TREATMENT OF JUNE 15 GOP COMMUNIQUE WHICH REPORTED FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENTS IN NEGOTIATIONS VARIED BUT WAS ON THE WHOLE NOTABLY MODERATE FOR WHAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE A RATHER SENSATIONAL STATEMENT. HOWEVER, IN TODAY'S TOUCHY ATMOSPHERE, IT IS QUESTIONABLE HOW LONG THE TENSION OF QUIETLY WAITING FOR THE OTHER SHOE WILL BE BORNE. END SUMMARY.

1. GOP NATIONAL INFORMATION COMMISSION ISSUED ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE WEDNESDAY EVENING JUNE 15 UNDER TITLE "FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON SUBJECTS CONCERNING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGNITY". THIS ANNOUNCED THAT: PANAMA WOULD MAKE NO JOINT REPORT WITH US TO THIS YEAR'S OASGA; PANAMA WOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION TO OASGA ON NEUTRALITY PACT; AND IF CONCLUSION OF A NEW TREATY COULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED PANAMA WOULD "EXPRESS IN GRENADA THE DISAGREEMENTS WHICH NOW EXIST IN THE NEGOTIATIONS..."

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 04356 161645Z

2. COMMUNIQUE QUOTED PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATOR ESCOBAR THAT TUESDAY'S SESION WAS "THORNY" (ASPERA). IT SAID THAT AS A RESULT, THERE WAS NO SESSION WEDNESDAY, TO PERMIT US NEGOTIATORS TO CONSULT WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, AND THAT NEXT SESSION WOULD BE THURSDAY. (TEXT FBIS/PANAMA PA 152325Y). IT WAS CARRIED IN BORADCAST MEDIA WEDNESDAY EVENING, AND WAS COVERED IN ALL THURSDAY MORNING PAPERS.

3. PRESS TREATMENT, HOWEVER, VARIED WIDELY. USUALLY-STRIDENT "CRITICA" LUMPED IT TOGETHER WITH A REWRITE OF A UPI STORY QUOTING SECRETARY VANCE THAT A NEW TREATY WOULD BE READY BY SEPTEMBER. ITS FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE, "CHANGE IN LINE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS", REFERRED THE READER TO THE WRONG INSIDE PAGE FOR THE ARTICLE*

4. "MATUTINO" PRINTED COMMUNIQUE IN USUAL FASHION, A FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE REFERRING TO INSIDE LOCATION. LEAD STORY WAS FULL TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S WEDNESDAY SPEECH TO OASGA. HOWEVER, RATHER OPTIMISTIC UPI ARTICLE ON SECRETARY VANCE'S STATEMENTS WAS ALSO CARRIED ON EDITORIAL PAGE.

5. "ESTRELLA" LEAD WAS ALSO GONZALEZ-REVILLA SPEECH, FULL TEXT PLUS A LONG AP BYLINER FROM GRENADA. COMMUNIQUE WAS OFF-LEAD. A RATHER BLAND EDITORIAL (WITH NO TOPICAL REFERENCES) CAUTIONED READERS NOT TO ANTICIPATE TRMS OF ANY NEW TREATY FROM PREMATURE RUMORS OR SPECULATIONS. "STAR AND HERALD" COMBINED COMMUNIQUE AND WIRE REPORTS ON GONZALEZ-REVILLA SPEECH IN A SINGLE LEAD ARTICLE.

6. COMMENT: LACK OF SPLASH AND ORCHESTRATED COMMENT ON WHAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE A RATHER SENSATIONAL STATEMENT HERE IS QUITE NOTABLE. CLEARLY, THE PRESS HAS NOT BEEN TOLD TO OVERPLAY THE STORY--IN FACT, ONE SUSPECTS IT MAY HAVE BEEN TOLD TO DOWNPLAY IT. AS LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, ONLY ONE SHOE HAS BEEN DROPPED. HOWEVER, "FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENTS ON MATTERS TOUCHING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGNITY" IS RATHER STRONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 04356 161645Z

STUFF. IN TODAY'S TOUCHY ATMOSPHERE, IT IS QUESTIONABLE HOW LONG THE TENSION OF WAITING QUIETLY FOR THAT OTHER SHOE WILL BE BORNE.

7. IT IS OUR JUDGEMENT THAT THE "THORNS" IN THE SPEECH AND COMMUNIQUE BY THE PANAMANIAN ARE ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF PANAMA'S NEGOTIATING PHILOSOPHY. WHEN THE US ASSUMES POSITIONS WHICH PANAMA THINKS ARE UNREASONABLE, IT APPLIES A KICK TO THE GROIN AS THE BEST WEAPON AGAINST THOSE POSITIONS.
GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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